

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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2011 OCT 25 A 3: 29

In the Matter of:

Smyrna NY 13464
Post Office State ZIP Code

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No: A2011-78

Smyrna Village Board of Trustees, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Smyrna post office. The Final Determination was posted 9/9/11 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

SEE ATTACHED

Charles M. Cole

D. Cole

Ms. [unclear]

VILLAGE OF SMYRNA APPEAL OF POSTAL SERVICE'S DETERMINATION
TO CLOSE THE SMYRNA NY POST OFFICE
DOCKET # A2011-78

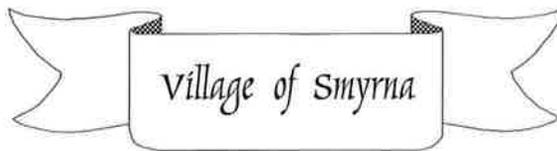
1. The Town of Smyrna is a large rural area with the incorporated Village of Smyrna as its gathering place.
2. The Village is a busy, active place with many people in town daily -- residents, employees of local businesses, church members, and an incredible number who stop regularly to use the Post Office and/or the Smyrna Market, two doors down from the Post Office.
3. Through the efforts of the Village Government, the housing stock within the village limits was increased by 18% in the past fifteen years, most of it affordable housing for people who are retired, disabled or have low incomes. A strong selling point to funders of the projects was the fact that a person could live here without a car, as there are the Post Office, two churches, the general store, a public library and a county-wide bus service. Instead of living in a community, citizens are truly concerned that without the Post Office, the store will soon close, and individuals and the community will become isolated.
4. During the 1990's, the Village installed a municipal septic system, and completed the municipal water system which had been started in the early '80's. With those additions, Smyrna's largest employer, Baillie Lumber, expanded its facilities, choosing Smyrna over another location to expand because of these municipal services.
5. Within the village limits are:
 - a. Baillie Lumber, as noted above
 - b. Five storefronts on NY State Route 80, only one of which is empty, and the others contain Clippinger Law offices, two sides of the Smyrna Market, and our great Post Office. Across a side street is the Village Clerk.
 - c. Opposite the storefronts on Route 80 are a garage with a mechanic, and our incredibly active Fire Department. A bit to the east is the Village Hall and Public Library.
 - d. Half a block downhill are the Town Hall, which is being renovated -- it is an old opera house, and the historic Smyrna School, now the Schoolhouse Apartments, eleven in all.
 - e. Heading further downhill toward Baillie Lumber, you find the Town Highway Department and Smyrna Feed, a business

which brings many people into the community.

6. The area is also home to many small businesses such as artists, private contractors, painters and plumbers. These people all depend on the Post Office for mail, for delivering packages, made more convenient by the ease of parking right out front.
7. The geography of the Village of Smyrna limits activities, in that it is built into the side of a hill. In addition to Route 80, there are only four side streets, two of which dead-end in the Village.
8. There is no place to locate parking lots of any kind, so parking is on the shoulders of the roads, which does not stop people from coming to town for our great community events, the Town Band Concerts on Monday evenings (for the past 96 years) in the summer from the porch over the Library, chicken barbecues which bring people from all over, despite having to park half a mile up the road at times, trick-or-treating and Santa's arrival in town on the back of a fire truck.
9. New York State would have rebuilt Route 80 with proper curbs several years ago, however the Village government asked them not to, because all on-street parking would have been eliminated, except perhaps in the business district. We are concerned that mail boxes will have the same effect, as most of the Village does not have grassy areas between the sidewalks and the road -- it is too narrow.
10. Getting to mailboxes is also a concern in the winter, since there is so little space for the plows to move the snow off the road -- frequently it ends up on the sidewalks, which would mean it would be packed in around the mailboxes.
11. The natural gas industry has come into this area, and drilled many gas wells within the Town of Smyrna. Many more are anticipated when New York State allows fracking, and Smyrna may see real growth then.
12. It does not make sense to us, the Mayor and Village Board, that the Postal Service did not appoint a postmaster when the last one moved on, and that now triggers a review of the need for the Post Office -- you caused the review.
13. We read the newspapers and know that the Postal Service is in big financial trouble, but we are not willing to have you solve your money problems (by an infinitesimal amount) by placing the burden on our people and our community to travel for mail, to lose our identity, and to become a less attractive place for businesses and residents who might want to settle here.

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

OCT 25 2011



P. O. Box 25
Smyrna, New York 13464-0025

Charles Edmonds
Mayor

David Raimy
Terry Bennett
Trustees

Joyce Ann Fuller
Village Clerk

Douglas Baker
Water Commissioner

Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave. NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268

re: Closing of Smyrna NY 13464 Post Office
Docket Number A2011-78

Dear Secretary:

Enclosed please find the Participant Statement by the Smyrna Village Board. It has been signed by Mayor Edmonds, and Trustees Raimy and Bennett.